Limited (Rs. 4.15 crore) and M/s Aar Kay Agencies (Rs. 1.82 crore).

In the matter of the advance for import of urea, NFL has, as a measure of abundant caution, made a provision by way of Bad and Doubtful Advances amounting to Rs. 130.69 crore out of unappropriated profits. This provision has been shown as a deduction in the accounts for the year 1996-97. Further, criminal proceedings against those who were found to have been involved in this fraudulent transaction have been launched. Arbitral proceedings under the contract have also been undertaken for the recovery of the advance alongwith damages.

Necesssary provisions have also been made in the accounts for the year 1996-97 in respect of the debts outstanding against M/s Bijwasan Agro Limited and M/s Aar Kay Agencies. Criminal investigations have also been initiated in these cases and in the matter of the transaction relating to M/s Aar Kay Agencies sanction has been accorded for the prosecution of the employees involved.

कोलायत तथा फलौदी के बीच बड़ी रेल लाइन

*276 श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या कोलायत से फलौदी तथा नागौर से फलौदी के बीच बड़ी रेल लाइनें बिछाने हेतु कोई सर्वेक्षण कार्य आरम्भ किया गया है यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में हुई प्रगति का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) क्या राजस्थान सरकार ने रिवाड़ी से भिवाड़ी तक के नये रेल मार्ग हेतु कोई प्रस्ताव प्रेषित किया है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी प्रगति का ब्यौरा क्या है

रेल मंत्री (श्री नीतिश कुमार): (क) दोनों लाइनों के लिए सर्वेक्षण शुरू कर दिए गए हैं तथा इस वर्ष के अंत में रिपोर्ट आ जाने की संभावना है। सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट उपलब्ध हो जाने के बाद ही इन परियोजनाओं पर आगे विचार करना संभव होगा।

(ख) जी हां। राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र योजना बोर्ड ने राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र के लिए परिवहन के संबंध में एक कार्यात्मक योजना का अनुमोदन किया है जिसमें रिवाडी - भिवाड़ी रेल संपर्क शामिल नहीं है। बहरहाल, उत्तर रेलवे ने खुर्जा - पलवल -रिवाडी -रोहतक रेल लाइन के लिए एक परियोजना तैयार की है जिसमें यह संपर्क मौजूद है लेकिन भारी निवेश और प्रतिफल की बहुत कम दर को देखते हुए इस प्रस्ताव पर आगे कार्रवाई नहीं की गई है।

Export of Commodities Using Red Sanders Wood

*277. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether commodities using red sanders wood are being exported endangering existence of the species; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to save the plant from extinction by checking export of such commodities?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Export of Red Sanders has been included in the Negative List of Exports since 1992 under the Export and Import Policy. However, value added items of Red Sanders wood are allowed for export since 1996 in view of huge accumulation of stocks. Natural stands of Red Sanders are mainly confined to the State of Andhra Pradesh. Important steps taken by Government to discourage illicit trade and for conservation of the species are as under:

(i) Complete ban on felling of Red Sanders species in natural stands;

(ii) Red Sanders was included in the Appendix-II of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES). As a result of this only legally procured consignments can be allowed for export.

(iii) Export of value added items are allowed to subject to certificate of origin from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the state from where the stocks are procured.

(iv) Number of Check-posts have been established and Forest Protection Force, equipped with wireless network, are deployed at strategic locations for protection of Red Sanders forests from illicit fellings.